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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Riley, John Gilmore, House

AND/OR COMMON Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

419 East Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

VICINITY OF

CODE
12

Second

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Leon

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☒ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: (Vacant)

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Tallahassee

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

VICINITY OF

Florida 32304

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Monroe Street

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Capitol Center Survey

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Archives, History and Records Management

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

SEE SITE FILE STAFF FOR
ORIGINAL PHOTO(S) OR MAP(S)

DESCRIPTION

LEB14

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story wood frame building covered with clapboard was originally T-shaped in plan with the upright of the T perpendicular to Jefferson Street. At a later date a two-story addition was constructed to the rear of the building. This addition is also perpendicular to Jefferson Street but not in line with the upright of the T. The gable roof of the main structure has a brick chimney on the ridge of the cross gable. The entire structure rests on brick piers. The gallery has turned posts and plain balustrades and there are decorative cutwork brackets. The windows on both floors are two-over-two double hung sash with plain surrounds. All windows have louvered shutters in place or shutter hardware. The main entrance is in the western section of the crossbar portion of the building. The door has a large pane of glass in the upper half and wood panels below. There is a transom above the door. In addition there is a secondary entrance in the eastern section of the crossbar portion of the building. Its door is composed of four wood panels. The clapboard addition to the rear also has a gable roof, double hung sash windows and a two-story gallery on its east facade.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

LE314

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Black History	

SPECIFIC DATES +1892 c.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Gilmore Riley was an early black educator in the Tallahassee community. He worked for the local Board of Public Instruction (later School Board) from the 1880's until 1926. During that time and until his death, he was also a leader in the black community, serving on the board of the St. James CME Church and actively participating in the Masons. At the time of his death in 1954, he owned valuable property in several areas of Tallahassee including this house which he had lived in since the 1890's. Shortly after his death, the Leon County School Board named the elementary school on Indiana Street in Tallahassee the John G. Riley School.

John G. Riley, the son of Sarah and James Riley, was born on September 24, 1857 in Leon County. He never formally attended school but was taught by "Aunt Henrietta" who had been a school teacher.¹ His first teaching jobs were in Wakulla and Gadsden Counties. It is probable that he came to Tallahassee to live in 1885 when he bought the land on which the Riley House stands.² By August of 1893 he was principal of the Colored Grade School also known as the Lincoln Academy.³ However, the Lincoln Academy which Riley served was built in 1875-76 after the previous school was destroyed by fire.⁴ Riley continued as principal and teacher at Lincoln Academy (later Lincoln Graded and High School) until June, 1926 when he retired at the age of 68.⁵

Riley purchased the eastern portion of Lot 8 on which the Riley House stands in 1885 for \$125.⁶ It is not clear when the house was built, but Riley's son remembers living there in the 1890's.⁷ By 1892 the valuation on the County Tax Rolls had reached \$250⁸ which was a typical valuation for a lot and house in that area. The house appears on the Tallahassee Sanborn Map of 1916. Riley continued to live in the house until his death in 1955.

¹Mrs. Marion Hadley, personal communication with Lee Warner, 1977.

²Leon County, Florida, Deed Records, Book BB, p. 75, Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Riley, John Gilmore, House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

³ Leon County, Florida, Board of Public Instruction, Minutes for August 23, 1893, Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

⁴ F.A. Rhoades, "History of Education in Leon County" (Masters thesis, University of Florida, 1946).

⁵ Leon County, Minutes, June, 1926.

⁶ Leon County, Deed Book BB, p. 75.

⁷ Emlin Riley, personal communications with Lee Warner, 1977.

⁸ Leon County, Florida, County Tax Rolls, 1892, Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than One

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,6,1	48,0	3,37,0	40,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the northeast corner of Lot 8 of the Old Plan of Tallahassee, run thence west 111 feet to a point, run thence south 130 feet to a point, run thence east 111 feet to a point, run thence 130 feet to the point of beginning, this parcel being described in Deed Book "BB", p. 75, County of Leon.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth B. Monroe, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

DATE

1/30/78

STREET & NUMBER

Department of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

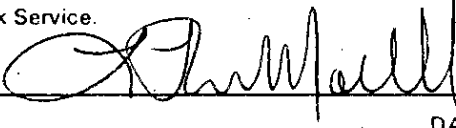
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐STATE ☐LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE

4/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Riley, John Gilmore, House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE

1

Hadley, Marion. Personal communications with Lee Warner, 1977.

Leon County, Florida. Deed Records. Books P, Z, BB. Located in Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

_____. Probate Records. 3780. Located in Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

_____. Board of Public Instruction. Minutes, 1893-1926. Located in Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

_____. Tax Rolls. Located in Leon County Courthouse, Tallahassee, Florida.

Rhoades, F. A. "History of Education in Leon County." Master's thesis, University of Florida, 1946.

Riley, Emlin. Personal communications with Lee Warner, 1977.

Sanborn Publishing Company. Tallahassee, 1916. New York: Sanborn Publishing Company.

Scott, J. Irving. The Education of Black People in Florida. Philadelphia: Dorrance and Company, 1974.

Index By State County
National Register Information System

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Include filter in navigation ☐

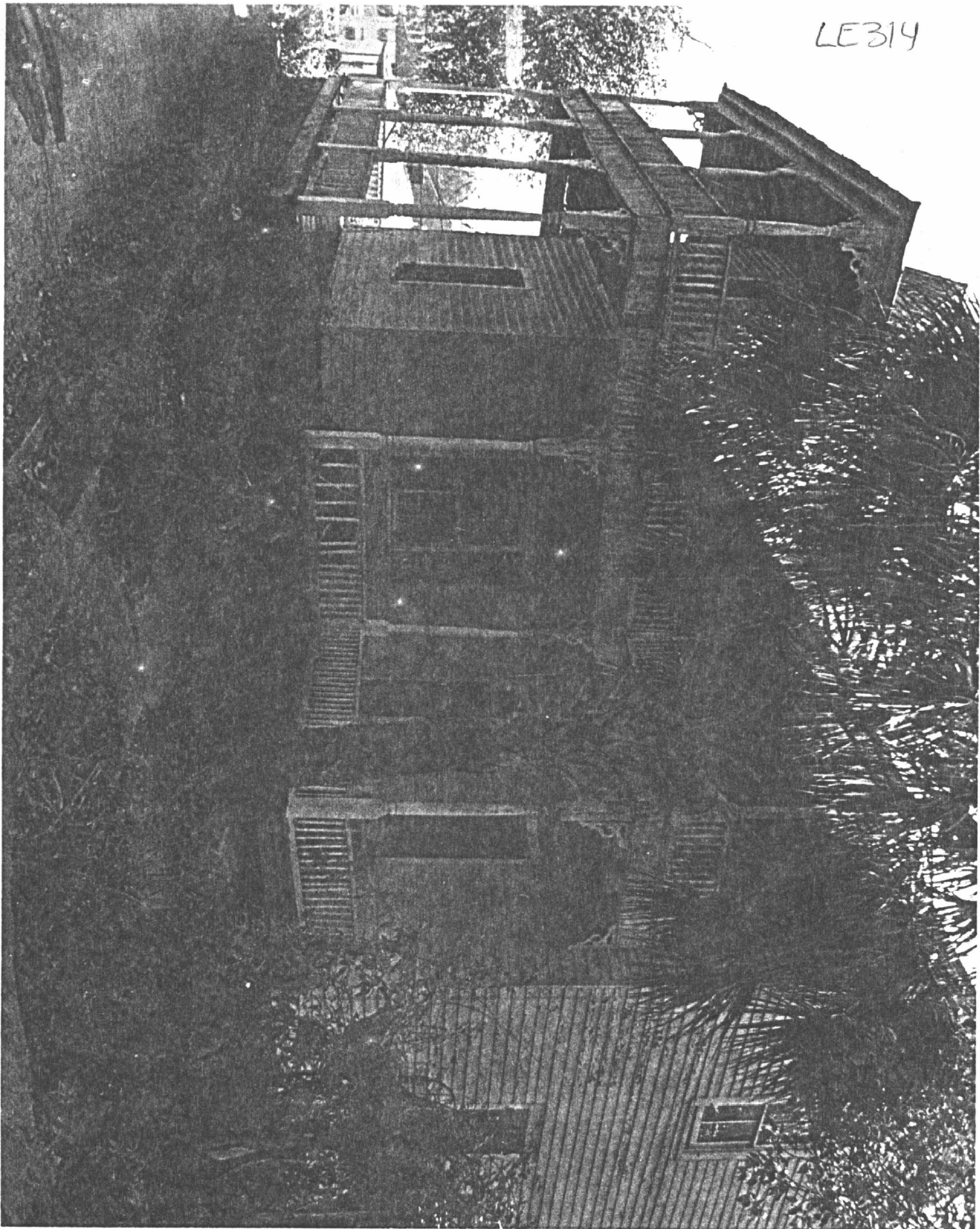
State: FL
County: Leon

Row	Resource Name	Address	City	Listed	Multiple
31	Miccosukee Methodist Church	Co. Rd. 59, S of jct. with FL 151	Miccosukee	1996-06-28	
32	Natural Bridge Battlefield	E of Woodville off U.S. 319	Woodville	1970-09-29	
33	Old City Waterworks	E. Gaines and S. Gadsden Sts.	Tallahassee	1979-01-31	
34	Park Avenue Historic District	Park Ave. and Call St.	Tallahassee	1979-10-24	
35	Pisgah United Methodist Church	N of Tallahassee, SE of FL 151	Tallahassee	1974-05-03	
36	Riley, John Gilmore, House	419 E. Jefferson St.	Tallahassee	1978-08-01	
37	Roberts Farm Historic and Archeological District	Roberts Rd., 1 mi. E of Centerville Rd.	Tallahassee	1995-11-02	Rural Resources of Leon County MPS
38	Ruge Hall	655 W. Jefferson St.	Tallahassee	1997-08-01	
39	San Luis de Apalache	2 mi. W of Tallahassee	Tallahassee	1966-10-15	
40	San Pedro y San Pablo de Patale	6 mi. E of Tallahassee	Tallahassee	1972-06-26	

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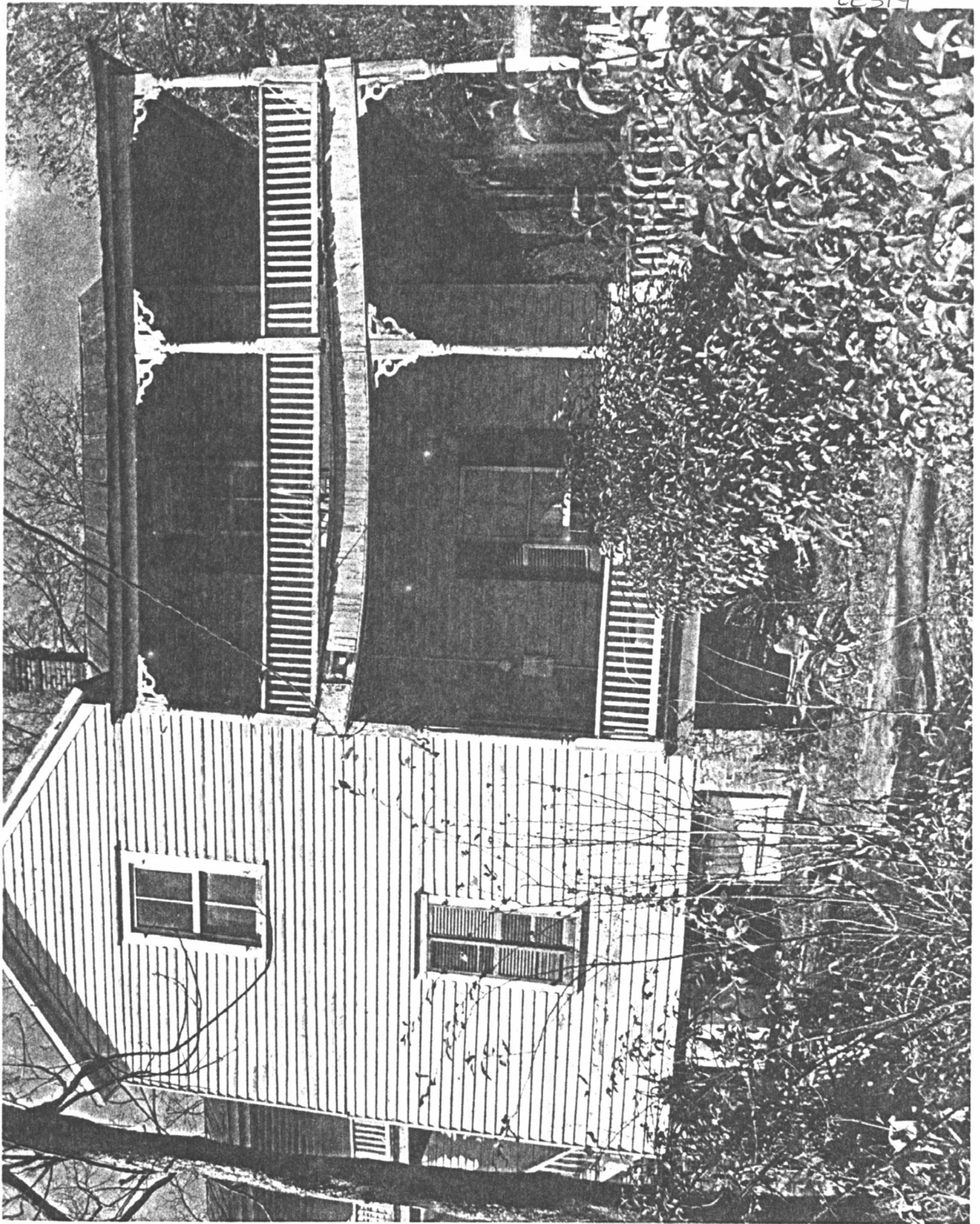
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1. John Gilmore Riley House
2. Tallahassee, Florida
3. J. Rodney Little
4. 1975
5. Division of Archives, History &
Records Management
6. NW elevation
7. Photo #1

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1. John Gilmore Riley House
2. Tallahassee, Florida
3. J. Rodney Little
4. 1975
5. Division of Archives, History &
Records Management
6. East elevation
7. Photo #2

